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FRESNO FIREARMS AND DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED ON FEDERAL WARRANTS; SEARCH WARRANTS SERVED

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor Scott, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Paul J. Vido, Fresno County District Attorney Elizabeth A. Egan, and Fresno Chief of Police Jerry Dyer announced today that members of the Violent Crime Impact Team (“VCIT”) collaborated in two investigations of the firearms and drug dealing activities in Fresno. These investigations culminated this morning with the service of five search warrants authorized by a United States Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of California seeking evidence of various firearms and drug trafficking offenses. Agents from ATF, the United States Marshal Service, officers from the Fresno Police Department, the California Department of Corrections and State Parole participated in the service of the warrants. LINDA CALLOWAY, EDDIE BULGARA and MONICA SANCHEZ were arrested.

This case was the result of a joint investigation by the Fresno Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT), which focuses federal resources on specific high-crime areas of Fresno, consisting of special agents from ATF, officers of the Fresno Police Department District Crimes Suppression Team (DCST) and deputies from the United States Marshal’s Service. These joint investigations were initiated in August and September 2005, and revolved around activities centered in two areas of Fresno that have been plagued by violence related to drug trafficking.

Six individuals have been charged: LINDA CALLOWAY, 45, MARCUS JABBAR REED, 27, CALLOWAY’s son, NISAN DEAN, 28, and DARRELL MOORE, 24, all of Fresno, have been charged with conspiracy to distribute and distribution of more than 50 grams of cocaine base, and conspiracy to engage in the business of dealing firearms without a license; CALLOWAY has also been charged with maintaining a storage facility for controlled substances. The complaint alleges that these charges resulted from an investigation that began in August 2005, and involved ten separate controlled purchases of approximately 54 grams of crack cocaine and five firearms. The complaint further alleges that these transactions occurred in the area of 158 and 166 N. Calavaras in Fresno. Search warrants were served at these residences today.

EDDIE BULGARA, 32, and MONICA SANCHEZ, 25, of Fresno, have been charged with conspiracy to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine, and BULGARA has been charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. The complaint alleges that these charges result from an investigation that began in September 2005, and involved controlled purchases of methamphetamine from BULGARA with the assistance of SANCHEZ. The complaint alleges that BULGARA said he is a member of the Bulldogs gang in Fresno. Search warrants were served at 1490 South Chestnut Street, Cypress Point Apartments, apartment 101 and 4026 E. Thomas Ave. in Fresno.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly Kelly, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted of the charges as alleged in the complaint, CALLOWAY, REED, DEAN and MOORE face life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum of ten years imprisonment, and a fine of more than \$8,000,000. BULGARA faces 50 years imprisonment with a mandatory minimum of five years and a fine of \$4,250,000, and SANCHEZ faces 40 years imprisonment with a mandatory minimum of 5 years imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$4,000,000.

United States Attorney Scott praised the work of the agents and officers involved in this case stating, "The message to gang offenders in Fresno should be unmistakable: federal and local authorities are fully committed to cracking down on your illegal activities."

The charges in the indictment are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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